

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-04

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /005 R

66624

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APPROVED BY:AF/W-ROBERT K. SHERWOOD

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R 292207Z APR 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

UNCLAS STATE 087374

FOL NIAMEY 1272 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO PARIS APRIL 26, 1974
REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE

UNCLAS NIAMEY 1272

AIDAC

PARIS FOR HELMAN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:

SUBJECT: SAHEL R AND R- CRITERIA RESTATEMENT

REF: A) STATE 79566; B) STATE 78968

1. THE ISSUES AND CONCERNS RAISED BY REF A ARE CLEARLY
CONSISTENT WITH THOSE OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT AND HAVE BEEN
REFLECTED IN DISCUSSIONS DURING PAST WEEK WITH NEWLY APPOINTED
GON OFFICIALS.

2. FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS, IN VIEW OF NEW GOVERNMENT, IS
FOOD TRANSPORTATION AND PREPOSITIONING. MEETINGS PAST WEEK
WITH MINISTERS AND LESSER OFFICIALS, IN WHICH WE HAVE
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REPEATEDLY REVIEWED OUR INFORMATION REGARDING FOOD

TRANSPORTATION AND PREPOSITIONING NEEDS AND HAVE URGED GOVERNMENT TAKE SEVERAL STEPS, WHICH IN OUR VIEW, GO LONG WAY TO MEET PROBLEM HEAD-ON, HAVE BEEN REPORTED.

3. WE ARE WORKING CLOSELY WITH OPVN, UNDP AND OTHER DONORS TO (A) IDENTIFY AND SOLVE PROBLEMS WITH WHICH WE, AS GROUP, CAN DEAL, INCLUDING MOVEMENT OF FOOD THROUGH PORTS TO PRIMARY POINTS OF DISTRIBUTION IN NIGER; (B) INTERNAL DISTRIBUTION FROM PRIMARY POINTS TO SECONDARY AND TERTIARY POINTS; AND (C) PREPOSITIONING OF FOOD. WE WILL CONTINUE MEET ON REGULAR BASIS WITH INFORMALLY CONSTITUTED GROUP INTERESTED DONORS, ESPECIALLY UNDP WHO FOCAL POINT FOR COORDINATION GRAIN MOVEMENTS.

4. PARA 6 REF A REITERATES SCOPE OF WORK FOR MILLER/SNYDER TEAM AS SET FORTH REF B. USING INFORMATION DEVELOPED BY MILLER/SNYDER AND THAT ALREADY AVAILABLE THROUGH MECHANISM OUTLINED ABOVE, WILL BE ABLE IDENTIFY REQUIREMENTS THIS AREA.

5. WE FORESEE ASSISTANCE IN ANY OF SEVERAL WAYS, INCLUDING LEASING ADDITIONAL TRUCKS FOR HAULING GRAIN FROM PORTS TO NIGER, VOMING SOME GRAIN DESTINED FRO AGADEZ/ARLIT OVER DESERT FROM ALGIERS AND INCREASING EVACUATION RATE AT COASTAL PORTS. SEPARATE CABLE COVERING ALL ASPECTS FOOD ARRIAVLA, DISTRIBUTION, TRANSPORTATION, PREPOSITION AND STOARAGE TO FOLLOW.

6. AGREE WITH SUGGESTION OF ASSIGNMENT BY AID/W OF LOGISTICS ADVISOR. WOULD PREFER HE BE STATIONED LAGOS OR COTONOU. TRANSPORTATION BETWEEN TWO CITIES ONLY 5 HOUR TRIP OVER PAV-ED PAVED ROADS. THIS WOULD GIVE HIM READY ACCESS TO PORT FACILITIES WHERE HE MOST NEEDED TO REPORT HOW MUCH GRAIN BEING EVACUATED FROM PORTS. HE WOULD ALSO BE ABLE MAKE CONTACT WITH FREIGHT FORWARDERS TO SECURE WHATEVER TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES AVAILABLE AND NECESSARY. OBVIOUSLY THIS IS JOB FOR MORE THAN ONE MAN, WOULD REQUIRE A MINIMUM ONE EACH LAGOS AND COTONOU FOR NEXT TWO/THREE MONTHS. ASSIGNMENT THESE TECHNICIANS SHOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT POSITIONING OF TREVOR PAGE (OSRO) TO WORK THIS AREA.

7. WITH REGARD ASSISTANCE INTERNAL TRANSPORTATION, FORESEE NEED THIS AREA AND HAVE, IN PAST, OFFERED HELP TO ASSIST OPVN. INTEND MAKE SAME OFFER TO NEW GOVERNMENT. WILL HAVE BETTER FIX UNCLASSIFIED

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AFTER TALKS SCHEDULED FOR MILLER WITH OPVN AND UNDP.

8. RESULT OF MEETING THIS WEEK WITH JOMNI, (OPVN), VAN DAMME, (WFP) MAJORHVE\$-NI LOGISTICS 3/0345), AND ADO WAS SUGGESTION FOR SUPPLY/DISTRIBUTION REPORTING SYSTEM.

9. FOOD SUPPLY/DISTRIBUTION REPORTING SYSTEM: THE SYSTEM ENVISIONED WOULD INCLUDE EQUIPPING A "CONTROL CENTER" STAFFED

BY GON PERSONNEL. THE CONTROL CENTER WOULD BE LINKED TO ALL DEPARTMENTS AND ARRONDISSEMENTS WITH SEPCIAL DISTRIBUTION PROBLEMS THROUGH A SINGLE SIDE-BAND RADIO NET. A SIMPLIFIED RADIO REPORTING FORMAT IS PRESENTLY BEING DEVELOPED TO ENCOMPASS ALL ASPECTS OF FOOD DISTRIBUTION INCLUDING VEHICLES, AVAILABLE FUEL, ETC. THE CENTER WILL THEN BE RESPONSIBLE FOR SYNTHESIZING ALL DATA, MAKING INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO CONCERNED AGENCIES, BOTH GON AND DONORS, AND GENERALLY KEEPING ON TOP OF THE SITUATION. APPROXIMATE DOLS 90,000.

10. AGREE WHOLEHEARTEDLY THAT COMPLETE ASSESSMENT AREA REFUGEE CONCENTRATION NEEDED. NOT CLEAR WHETHER LICROSS WILL BEGIN THYIS ASSESSMENT WITH AID GRANT BUT SUGGEST THEY BE ASSISTED TO DO SO. WITH LIMITED MANPOWER AND RESTRICTED COMMUNICATIONS, IT IS DIFFICULT TO KEEP CURRENT AND ACCURATE PICTURE OF SITUATION. IN MEETINGS THIS PAST WEEK WITH GON, ADO HAS SUGGESTED THAT GON TAKE STEPS ASSESS NEEDS IN ENCAMPMENTS, ESPECIALLY HEALTH NEEDS, AND THAT WE CERTAIN DONOR COMMUNITY WILL RESPOND BOTH IN ATTEMPTING DETERMINE WHAT IS NEEDED AND IN SUPPLYING IT. ADO AGAIN RAISED POSSIBILITY AID FINANCING TEAM(S) TO PROVIDE MEDICAL SERVICES IN ONE OR TWO MAJOR REFUGEE CAMPS.

11. ATTEMPTING EVALUATE GON ABILITY MEET POTENTIAL VACCINE REQUIREMENTS AND CAPABILITY DELIVERY TO HIGH RISK LOCATIONS.

12. WITH REGARD OTHER PROJECTS PROPOSED FUNDING WITH ADDITIONAL ALLOCATION R/R FUNDS, DISCUSSIONS HAVE BEEN HELD ON FOLLOWING:

A. SAUVETAGE DES VEAUX (SAVING YOUNG CATTLE). THIS ACTIVITY WAS DISCUSSED RECENTLY IN WASHINGTON AND IS FOR APPROXIMATELY DOLS 450,000. BRIEFLY THE ACTIVITY IS DESIGNED TO SAVE YOUNG CATTLE FOR BREEDING PURPOSE. ULTIMATELY THE CATTLE WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO SPECIFIED CONTROL AREAS THROUGHOUT UNCLASSIFIED

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THE COUNTRY FOR REINFORCING DECIMATED HERDS.

B. FISH PONDS. ACTIVITY PROPOSAL INCLUDING ITEMIZED BUDGET FOR DOLS 100,000 NEARLY FINALIZED. ACTIVITY INCLUDES PEACE CORPS INVOLVEMENT WITH EAUX ET FORETS BEING RESPONSIBLE GON AGENCY. IT IS EXPECTED THAT ONE HECTARE OF FISH POND WILL YEILD BETWEEN 600 AND 800 KG OF HIGH PROTEIN FISH PER EACH SIXTH MONTH GROWING PERIOD. IT IS OUR OPINION THAT THIS IS INDEED A SOUND ACTIVITY DESIGNED TO BOTH INCREASE FOOD PRODUCTION AS WELL AS FOCUSING ATENTION ON NIGER'S BIGGEST RESOURCE-THE RIVER.

C. LOCAL SECONDARY ROAD REPAIR. THIS ACTIVITY WOULD MAKE FUNDS AVAILABLE TO PREFECTS AND SUB-PREFECTS TO PAY VILLAGERS TO PROVIDE SPOT MAINTENANCE TO SECONDARY ROADS, THUS ALLOWING TRUCK TRANSPORT OF FOODSTUFFS TO REMOTE AREAS. THIS PROPOSAL

IS ONLY IN THE EARLY DISCUSSION STAGES. FUNDING DOLS 150,000-
175,000. BUCHE UNQUOTE RUSH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SAHEL, TRANSPORTATION, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS, FOODS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE087374
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: AF/W:RKSHERWOOD
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740102-0715
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974045/aaaaadyj.tel
Line Count: 171
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A) STATE 79566; B) STATE 78968
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: elyme
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 SEP 2002 by BryanSD>; APPROVED <02 JAN 2003 by elyme>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SAHEL R AND R- CRITERIA RESTATEMENT
TAGS: EAID, NI
To: LAGOS ABIDJAN
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005